

Message Text

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ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EB-08 EUR-12 AID-05 /036 W

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FM AMEMBASSY DACCA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8301

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E.O. 11652 : N/A

TAGS : BEXP, BTIO, EAID, BG, CA

SUBJECT : CIDA GRANT FOR BANGLADESH RAILWAYS (BR)

REF : (A) DACCA 0501; (B) DACCA 0592; (C) DACCA 0991

1. ON MARCH 1 CANADA AND BANGLADESH SIGNED THREE AGREEMENTS UNDER WHICH THE CANADIAN INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (CIDA) WILL GRANT 12.8 MILLION CANADIAN DOLLARS FOR RAILWAY DEVELOPMENT. THE GRANT WILL FINANCE: (A) TWELVE METER GAUGE LOCOMOTIVES, SPARE PARTS AND ENGINEERING SERVICES (\$8.4 MILLION); (B) OVERHEAD CRANES FOR THE DACCA AND PARBATIPUR RAILWAY WORKSHOPS AND SPARE PARTS FOR 35 MONTREAL LOCOMOTIVE WORKS (MLW) LOCOMOTIVES ALREADY OWNED BY BANGLADESH RAILWAYS (\$4 MILLION); AND (C) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR MAINTENANCE OF THE LOCOMOTIVES (\$400,000).

2. COMMENT: CIDA ALREADY HAS A CANADIAN ENGINEER AT BANGLADESH RAILWAY'S DACCA WORKSHOP, WHICH IS BEING REHABILITATED TO SERVICE BR'S 35 EXISTING MLW LOCOMOTIVES AND THE 12 NEW ONES TO BE PURCHASED UNDER THE CIDA GRANT. CANADA HOPES THIS GRANT WILL HELP BOOST MLW'S BID TO SUPPLY 30 NEW LOCOMOTIVES TO BR UNDER THE U.S. \$ 25 MILLION SAUDI-FINANCED LOCOMOTIVE TENDER ANNOUNCED IN JANUARY (REF B). AS REPORTED REFTELS, BOTH GENERAL MOTORS, WHICH HAS SUPP-

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LIED THE MAJORITY OF BR'S LOCOMOTIVES IN THE PAST, AND GENERAL ELECTRIC, WHICH HAS SUPPLIES A SMALLER NUMBER, ARE BELIEVED TO BE INTERESTED IN THIS TENDER. BERGESEN

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Message Attributes

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